(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Improvement of medical treatment and research facilities is a continuous process within the resources available. Apart from various premier institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Jawaherlal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Surgery, Bangalore involved in providing medical treatment and research facilities, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthaya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) it has been envisaged to establish six AIIMS like Institutions at Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Bhubneshwar and Rishikesh at an outlay of Rs. 280 crores each approximately along with upgradation of 11 medical Institutions with an outlay of Rs. 120 crores each approximately. In addition a number of Government agencies like ICMR, CSIR, ICAR, Department of Bio-Technology, Department of Science and Technology etc. are supporting various programmes and building capacity.

Medicines from Neem Tree

3433. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any fresh evidence on uses/ application of neem tree, its formulations, and products made from the tree leaves etc., in more areas; if so, the details thereof indicating the areas of current application as well as the fresh ones;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tree has gained popularity in almost all countries of the world and if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the current position with regard to its patent achieved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Neem has been in use for a variety of products for use of man, cattle and for agriculture in India for thousands of years. The plant has been extensively investigated

for its biological activities in experimental models as well as clinical settings. The plant is reported to have anti-fertility, hypoglycaemic, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antimicrobial and antifungal activities. A contraceptive gel based on Neem extract is undergoing clinical trials in the country.

(b) Neem is popular in many countries of the world as a bio-pesticide, soil conditioner and for use in cosmetics and skin care products.

(c) According to the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trademark, so far 21 Neem related Indian patents have been granted to various Government institutions like Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, IIT, Mumbai, CCR&D of Ministry of Defence and National Research Development Corporation etc. Indian institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad has 5 International patents on Neem seed products/formulations and the tecnology has been delivered to several small scale industries for commercial exploitation.

Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill

3434. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:
SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill, 2005 in the ensuing session of Parliament;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same bill was scheduled to be introduced in the last session but in view of the representations expressing strong dissatisfaction by physiotherapists and MPs, the Bill was not introduced;

(c) whether Government have considered the suggestions of MPs and physiotherapists and propose to bring the Bill after incorporating the desired changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Government are examing the proposal to introduce two different Bills—